

SHORT HISTORIES

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Holy Scriptures.

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SHORT HISTORIES

TRANSCRIBED FROM THE

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Holy Scriptures;

INTENDED FOR THE

USE, ENTERTAINMENT, AND BENEFIT

OF

CHILDREN,

AND BY AN EASY STEP

To introduce YOUNG MINDS to an early
Acquaintance with the BIBLE.

BY A LADY.

London:

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MDCCLXXXVII.

SHORT HISTORY

TRANSCRIBED FROM THE

OLD RECORDS

RECORDED FOR THE

USE OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE

CHILDREN

AND BY THE STATE

To illustrate the history of the State

and the people of the State

BY A. L. A. B. Y.

Published by

the State of New York, and the people of the State

MOOREHEAD

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SHORT HISTORIES

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Holy Scriptures.

A CONCISE ACCOUNT of the CREATION.

Genesis, CHAP. I.

IN the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Upon the first day he created light. On the second day he formed the firmament, and the waters; and upon the third day God created the trees, the fruits, the herbs, and the produce of the ground.

Upon the fourth day God made two great lights; the sun to rule the day; the moon to rule the night; and he also made the stars. Upon the fifth day God made the

B

fowls

fowls and the fishes; and God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters, and let fowl multiply in the earth: and he also made the beasts of the field, the cattle, and all creeping things after their kind. And upon the sixth day God made man, in his own image, and gave him the dominion over all the creation of God; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and said, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea, the fowls of the air, and over every thing that moveth upon the earth; the green herb and the fruit of the trees I give you for meat.

CH. 2. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished. And upon the seventh day God rested; and blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it.

And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there he placed Adam and Eve, the first man, and the first woman, whom he so named: the tree of knowledge of

of good and evil, and the tree of life, grew in the midst of the garden. And the Lord God commanded them, saying, Of every tree in the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of knowledge of good and evil ye shall not eat thereof; for in the day you eat thereof you shall surely be subject unto death. But Adam and Eve transgressed the command, and did eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge, and thus offended God, and were turned out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from whence they were taken.

CH. 4. And Eve had two sons, Cain and Abel. Cain was a tiller of the ground, and Abel was a keeper of sheep. And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruits of the ground an offering to the Lord; and Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock, and of the fat thereof: and the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering; but unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very angry, and his

countenance fell. And the Lord said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt not thou be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him. And the Lord said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not; am I my brother's keeper? And God said, What hast thou done? The voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground: and now thou art cursed from the earth. And Cain went out from the presence of the Lord, and dwelt in the land of Nod.

And it came to pass, that men multiplied upon the earth, and God saw that they increased in wickedness greatly. And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created, from the face of the earth, both man and beast, and fowl, and creeping thing, for it repenteth me that I have made them.

them. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord; for he was a just man, and perfect in his generation.

The History of NOAH'S FLOOD.

Genesis, CHAP. 6.

NOAH was a just man, and walked with God. And God said unto Noah, Behold, for the wickedness of the land, I, even I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth, for it is full of violence; and I will destroy all flesh wherein is the breath of life from under heaven, and every thing that is in the earth shall die; but with thee will I establish my covenant. Thou shalt build an ark, in which thou and thy whole family shalt be preserved from the dangers of the flood. And thou shalt bring into the ark

with thee of every living thing; two of every sort shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep them alive with thee; of fowls, cattle, and creeping things of every sort; and thou shalt provide proper food for each, and for thyself and family. And thus did Noah, according to all that God had commanded him.

CH. 7. Now Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters was upon the earth. And Noah and all his family, and all the cattle, fowls, and creeping things, went into the ark with Noah, two and two, of all flesh wherein is the breath of life: and they that went into the ark, went in male and female, of all flesh, as God had commanded: and the Lord shut them in.

And the flood was forty days upon the earth: and the waters increased and bare up the ark, and it was thus lifted up above the earth; and the ark went upon the face of the waters, which rose up fifteen cubits; and all the mountains were covered; and every living substance was destroyed, both
man

man and beast, creeping things, and the fowls of heaven; Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark. And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days.

CH. 8. And after the end of an hundred and fifty days the waters abated, and the ark rested upon the mountains of Ararat, in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of that month.

On the first day of the tenth month, the tops of the mountains were seen; and, at the end of forty days, Noah opened the windows of the ark, and sent forth a dove; but the dove found no rest for the sole of her foot, and she returned; and he put forth his hand and took her into the ark again. After seven days he sent the dove again, and she returned unto him, and lo! in her mouth was an olive leaf plucked off: so Noah knew that the waters abated: and he stayed yet other seven days, and sent forth the dove again; but she returned unto him no more,

And it came to pass in the six hundredth and first year, the first day in the first month, the waters were dried up from off the earth. And Noah looked, and behold the face of the ground was dry. And Noah went forth out of the ark, and his wife, and sons, and his sons wives with them; and also every beast, and fowl, and creeping thing went out of the ark with him.

And Noah built an altar unto the Lord, and offered upon it burnt offerings, which the Lord accepted: and the Lord said, I will no more curse the ground for man's sake: while the earth remaineth, seed time and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

CH. 9. And God said unto Noah and his sons, Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth. And God blessed them, and said, I will establish my covenant with you, and there shall no more be a flood to destroy the inhabitants of the earth. And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make

make between me and you, and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations. I do set my bow in the clouds; and it shall be the token of a covenant between me and the earth: and it shall come to pass, that when I bring a cloud over the earth, that this rainbow shall be seen in the cloud. And God said unto Noah, This is the token of the covenant between me and all flesh that is upon the earth, that the waters shall no more become a flood, to destroy all flesh.

And Noah lived after the flood three hundred and fifty years. And all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years, and then he died.

The History of ABRAHAM.

Genesis, CHAP. 18.

ABRAHAM was called the friend of God, and the father of the faithful; and his wife's

wife's name was Sarah: they were both very old, and had no children.

Now Abraham was always very kind and civil to strangers: and it came to pass, as he sat in his tent door in the heat of the day, three men stood before him: they appeared to be travellers, wanting rest and refreshment. As soon as he saw them he went to meet them, and said, Pass not away, I pray you, but rest yourselves under the tree: and he went and got water for them to wash their feet, and gave them meat to eat, and milk to drink, and stood by them under the tree; and they did eat.

These three men were angels, sent by God to Abraham to promise him a son; and this promise was afterward fulfilled in due time.

Now Abraham's kind and friendly behaviour to the angels was so pleasing to God, that he made known to Abraham his design of destroying the city of Sodom, for the wickedness of its inhabitants; saying that Abraham should surely become a great and mighty

mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth should be blessed in him. The Lord said, I know Abraham, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they will keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment, that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath promised him. And for Abraham's sake he saved Lot, his wife, and children, when he destroyed all the city of Sodom.

And Sarah, Abraham's wife, brought forth a son at the time the angels had foretold, and they called his name Isaac: and Abraham was an hundred years old when his son Isaac was born. And God promised Abraham, that in his seed all the nations should be blessed, because he was obedient and faithful. And God blessed Isaac according to his promise.

And Sarah lived to be an hundred and twenty-seven years old, and then she died. And Abraham bought the field of Ephron, and buried Sarah there; and he wept and mourned for her. And Abraham lived to be

an

an hundred threescore and fifteen years old; he then died, and his son Isaac buried him in the same cave with Sarah his wife, in the field of Ephron, which Abraham purchased of the sons of Heth, for a burying-place.

And it came to pass, after the death of Abraham, that God blessed Isaac, who lived to be an hundred and eighty years old.

Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebecca to be his wife: and when he was threescore years old he had two sons, whom he called Esau, and Jacob. And Isaac blessed Jacob his son, and said unto him, God Almighty bless thee, and multiply thee, and give thee the land he promised to thy father Abraham, because he obeyed the voice of the Lord, and kept his commandments.

And Jacob obeyed his father and mother, and went down from Beer-sheba to Haran; and he took Rachael to wife. And Jacob had many sons; but he loved Joseph better than any other son, because he loved his father and his mother, and was the most dutiful child they had.

The

*The History of JOSEPH.**Genesis, CHAP. 37.*

JOSEPH was the son of Jacob: Jacob was the son of Isaac; and Isaac was the son of Abraham.

When Joseph was seventeen years old, he was feeding the flock with his brethren. He was a youth of amiable disposition, and his father Jacob (who was also sometimes called Israel) was fond of him, and made him a fine coat of many colours: and when his brothers saw his father loved him better than them, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him; but cruelly wished his destruction.

Now Joseph told his brethren his dream — Behold, said he, we were in the field binding sheaves of corn; and your sheaves bowed down to my sheaf. And they said unto him, Dost thou think to have dominion over us? And they hated him the more for his dream.

He

—He also dreamed, that the sun, moon, and stars did obeisance to him. And his brethren were filled with hatred, envy, and ill-will toward him.

And Israel said unto Joseph, Thy brethren feed the flock in Shechem; go, I pray thee, and see if it be well with them, and with their flocks, and bring me word. And Joseph cheerfully obeyed his father's orders, and went out of the vale of Hebron unto Shechem; but his brethren were departed from thence. He followed, and found them at Dothan.

Now, when they saw him afar off, coming toward them, they conspired against him to slay him, and cast him into a pit, and then to report some evil beast had devoured him; saying, We shall then see what will become of his dreams.

But his brother Reuben did not like this design, and wished to deliver him out of their hands; he therefore said unto them, Let us not kill him: shed no blood; but cast him into this dry pit in the wilderness,
and

and lay not hands upon him. This Reuben said in hopes to secure Joseph, that he might deliver him safe to his father again.

And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, they stripped off his fine coat of many colours that was on him, and cast him into a pit. Now this pit was empty; there was no water in it; and they sat down to eat bread: and as they were eating, behold a company of Ishmaelites from Gilead were going that way, with spices to sell in Egypt.

Now Judah, one of Joseph's brothers, said, Come, let us sell him to these Ishmaelites; let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother: and the rest were content.

So they drew Joseph out of the pit, and sold him for twenty pieces of silver to the Ishmaelites: and they brought Joseph with them to Egypt and sold him to Potipher, an officer of Pharaoh's, and captain of the guard.

Now, when Reuben returned, and found Joseph was not in the pit, he rent his cloaths,
and

and went to his brethren, saying, The child is not! and whither shall I go? and what shall be said to our father? And they took Joseph's coat of many colours, and dipped it in the blood of a kid, which they killed for that purpose; and they brought it to their father, saying, This have we found: know now whether it be thy son's coat, or no.

And he knew it, and said, It is my son's coat: an evil beast hath devoured him: Joseph is, without doubt, rent in pieces! And Jacob mourned for his son many days, and said, I will go down to the grave to my son mourning. Thus his father wept for him.

And the Lord was with Joseph, and he was in the house of his master, Potipher the Egyptian: and the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake. But Joseph was falsely accused to his master, who put him in prison: but the Lord was with Joseph, and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper;

keeper; and that which Joseph did the Lord made it to prosper.

And it came to pass, that the king of Egypt's chief butler and baker had offended their lord the king: and the king was wroth, and put them into the prison where Joseph was confined. And they each of them dreamed a dream. And Joseph asked them, saying, Wherefore look ye so sad to-day? and they told him their dreams. And Joseph explained their dreams: and he said to the butler, Thou shalt, within three days, be restored to thy place and the king's favor; but think on me when it shall be well with thee: mention me to Pharaoh, and get me out of this prison. To the baker he said, In three days Pharaoh will hang thee up upon a tree. And it came to pass as Joseph had foretold: in three days the butler was received into the king's favor, and the baker was hanged. But, alas! the chief butler did not remember Joseph, but forgot him. Now it came to pass, after two full years, that Pharaoh dreamed two

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dreams

dreams and called for all his wise men; but none of them could shew him the meaning of his dreams.

Then the chief butler called to mind Joseph in the prison, and recommended Joseph to the king. And Joseph was ordered out of prison, and brought into the presence of the king, who told Joseph his dreams, which he explained thus to the king: There shall be seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt; and after them shall come seven years of famine. The famine shall be very grievous, and God will shortly bring it to pass.

And Pharaoh was pleased with Joseph, and took off his ring, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in fine robes; put a gold chain about his neck, and made him ruler over all the land of Egypt; and he was now thirty years old. And Joseph went over Egypt, gathering and laying up all the food of the seven plentiful years. When they were ended the years of dearth began, according as Joseph had said; and the

the dearth was in all lands, but in the land of Egypt only was there bread. Then Joseph opened all the store-houses, and sold unto the Egyptians, for the famine waxed fore in the land of Egypt: and all the countries came into Egypt to Joseph to buy corn; because the famine was so grievous in all lands.

Now Jacob said unto his sons, I have heard there is corn in Egypt: get ye down thither and buy for us from thence, that we may live and not die; for the famine was in the land of Canaan. And Joseph's ten brethren went down to buy corn in Egypt; but Joseph's brother Benjamin, Jacob sent not, being the youngest, lest mischief should befall him.

Now, when they came to Egypt, Joseph was the governor, and sold all the corn. They came therefore to Joseph, and bowed down themselves before him with their faces to the earth. And Joseph knew his brethren, but they knew not him: and Joseph remembered his dreams. He then asked

them from whence they came? They answered, From the land of Canaan, to buy food. Thy servants are twelve brethren, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan: behold, the youngest is this day with our father, and one is not. And Joseph said, Ye shall not go hence till your youngest brother come hither. For Joseph designed to try his brethren. He therefore ordered, that one of them should be confined in prison, till the rest of them had been home and fetched up their brother Benjamin.

And now the remembrance of their cruel usage of their brother Joseph came into their minds, and they said one to another, We are very guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the anguish of his soul when he besought us, and we would not hear; therefore is this distress come upon us. And Reuben said, Did not I plead strongly for him, and ye would not hear me? They did not know that Joseph understood what they were saying; for he spoke to them in the Egyptian language, and by an interpreter.

But

But Joseph was so affected by their discourse, that he turned from them to hide his tears; for he could not help weeping. Then he ordered their sacks to be filled with corn, and provision for their journey, and returned their money along with the corn: he also kept Simeon their brother, and then ordered them to depart.

And they came to Jacob their father, unto the land of Canaan, and told him all that had befallen them.

And it came to pass as they emptied their sacks, that behold every man's money was in his sack; and both they and their father were afraid. And Jacob was grieved, and said, *Me have ye bereaved of my children. Joseph is not, and Simeon is not, and will ye take Benjamin away? If mischief befall him, then shall ye bring down my grey hairs with sorrow to the grave.*

CH. 43. And when they had near eaten up the corn which they brought out of Egypt, their father said unto them, Go and buy us more food. And Judah said unto Israel his

father, Send my brother Benjamin with me: I will be surety for him; for it will be to no purpose if we go without Benjamin. And Jacob at last consented, and said, If it must be so, go, and take with you a present to the man of the best fruits in the land; of honey, spices, myrrh, nuts, and almonds; and take double money, and the money you brought back in your sacks; perhaps that might be an oversight; take also your brother Benjamin, and God Almighty give you favor in the sight of the man. And they did as their father commanded them, and rose up, and went down to Egypt, and stood before Joseph, and gave him the present, and bowed themselves to the earth, as the sheaves in his dream did. And when he saw Benjamin with them, he gave orders that they should dine with him; and sent their messes to them according to their ages: and Benjamin's mess was five times larger than the rest.

Joseph commanded the steward again to fill their sacks with corn, and also to put in their

their money as before, and in Benjamin's sack a silver cup that Joseph made use of.

And when they were got a little way out of the city, the steward followed, and overtook them, and said unto them, Wherefore have ye rewarded good with evil, by taking the silver cup in which my lord drinketh? But they did not know of it; for Joseph ordered this to try them yet farther. And when the cup was found in Benjamin's sack, they were all greatly troubled, and rent their cloaths, and returned again to Joseph's house, and bowed themselves before him unto the ground. And Joseph said unto them, What deed is this that ye have done? Benjamin shall be my servant; and as for you, get you up unto your father.

But Judah entreated him to let Benjamin go, and offered himself to stay behind in his stead, saying, How shall I go up to my father without Benjamin, when I promised to bring him safe back? for he said unto me, If mischief befall him, ye will bring down my grey hairs with sorrow to the grave.

Then Joseph could refrain himself no longer. And he ordered every one to retire, but his brethren, to whom he now made himself known. And Joseph said unto his brethren, I am Joseph.—Doth my father yet live? I am indeed Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt. Now, therefore, be not grieved nor angry with yourselves that ye sold me hither; for God did send me before you to preserve your lives. Haste you, therefore, and go up to my father, and tell him of all ye have seen; and bring my father, and all his family, flocks and herds, and all that he hath, and he shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and be near unto me; and there I will nourish you all, for there will be yet five years of famine. And he kissed his brethren, and wept over them.

And it came to pass, when Pharaoh was told that Joseph's brethren were come, it pleased Pharaoh to order Joseph to send waggons to fetch his father and all his relations down to Egypt, and to give them the land of Goshen to settle in it and dwell.

So

So Joseph sent away his brethren with waggons loaded with presents to his father, and he said unto them, See that ye fall not out by the way. And they came to their father Jacob, and told him all that had happened unto them. And when he saw the waggons that Joseph had sent, the spirit of Jacob revived. And Israel said, It is enough: Joseph my son is yet alive: I will go and see him before I die.

So Jacob, and all his children, and flocks, and herds, went down to Egypt in the waggons that Pharaoh had sent to fetch them; and they were in all threescore and ten souls.

And Joseph went in his chariot to meet Israel his father; and he bowed himself, and wept a good while. And Joseph said, I will go up to Pharaoh, and let him know you are come to me. And Pharaoh said, The best of all the land is before thee. In the land of Goshen let them dwell, and do thou provide for them.

And Joseph presented to Pharaoh, Jacob his

his father; and Jacob blessed Pharaoh. And Pharaoh asked him, How old art thou? And Jacob said, An hundred and thirty years: few and evil have the years of my life been. And he blessed Pharaoh, and departed into Goshen, where Joseph provided bread for his father, brethren, and all their households, according to their families. And Israel dwelt in the land of Goshen; and they had possessions therein, and grew and multiplied exceedingly.

And Jacob dwelt in Egypt seventeen years. So when he died, he was an hundred and forty and seven years old. And when the time of his death drew near, he called for Joseph, and said, Bury me not, I pray thee, in Egypt, but bury me with my fathers, in the cave which Abraham bought from the children of Heth in the field of Ephron for a possession of a burying place. And Joseph promised he would. And very soon after he had blessed his children, and foretold that the Messiah should descend from Judah, the good old man died in peace.

And

And his dutiful, affectionate son Joseph wept and mourned for his fond parent, and the physicians embalmed the body of Israel. And they carried him into the land of Canaan, and buried him in the cave in the field of Machpelah, which Abraham bought with the field for a possession of a burying-place of Ephron the Hittite, before Mamre. Joseph then returned to Egypt; and his brethren feared he would call to mind their unkindness to him, now their father was dead. But the beneyolent-hearted Joseph spake kindly to them, and said, Fear ye not; I will take care of you and your children. And Joseph lived to see his children's children, and foretold, that God would certainly carry them up out of Egypt, and bring them to the land he promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and charged them to carry up his bones along with them, to be buried with his father's. And they promised him they would.

So Joseph died, being an hundred and ten

ten years old; and they embalmed his body, and put it into a coffin in Egypt.

The History of MOSES.

Exodus, CHAP. I.

MANY years after the death of Joseph, a new king arose in Egypt who knew not Joseph, but found the people of Israel that dwelt in Goshen were multiplied, and waxed exceeding strong, and the land was filled with them. And the king said unto his people, Let us deal wisely with them: set task-masters over them: afflict them with hard burdens, and make their lives bitter with hard bondage. This will prevent their multiplying and growing powerful; lest they join our enemies, and fight against us.

But the more they were afflicted, the more they multiplied and grew. Then the king ordered, that all the male children of the

the Hebrew women should be drowned, or otherwise put to death; but their daughters were allowed to live.

CH. 2. At this time Moses was born, and his parents were both of the house of Levi. His mother's name was Jochebed; his brother's name was Aaron; and his sister's name Miriam. Now when his parents saw he was a goodly child, they hid him three months, but not daring to conceal him any longer, for fear of the king's command, his mother laid him in an ark of bulrushes daubed with pitch, and placed it in the flags by the river's brink. And his sister watched at some distance, to see what would be done to him.

And the daughter of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, came down to wash herself; and her maids walked by the river side: and when she saw the ark among the flags, she ordered it to be brought to her. And when she opened it, she saw the child; and behold the babe wept: and she had compassion on him, and said, This is one of the Hebrews' children.

children. Then said his sister, Shall I go and call a Hebrew woman, that she may nurse the child for thee. And Pharaoh's daughter said unto her, Go. And the maid went and called the child's mother. And Pharaoh's daughter said unto her, Take this child and nurse it for me. And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter; and he became her son, and she called his name Moses; Because, said she, I drew him out of the water. And she brought him up as her son, and had him instructed in the knowledge and wisdom of the Egyptians. Now when Moses grew up, he saw, with grief of heart, the afflictions of his brethren; and one day, when he was out amongst them, he saw an Egyptian smiting one of his brethren; and he slew the Egyptian. And when Pharaoh heard this thing, he sought to slay Moses; but Moses fled into the land of Midian, to Jethro the priest of that country; and he afterward married his daughter, lived with him, and fed his flocks. Now Moses was the meekest man

man on all the earth. And after Pharaoh was dead, the children of Israel cried unto the Lord because of their bondage. And God had respect unto them, and remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.

CH. 3. Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, on the side of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb.

He there saw a flame of fire in the midst of a bush, and behold the bush was not consumed! And the voice of God called from the bush, Moses! Moses! draw not nigher; pull off thy shoes, for the place whereon thou standest is holy!

I am the God of thy father; the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses was afraid. And the Lord said, I have seen the afflictions of my people which are in Egypt. I know their sorrows; have heard their cry; and will save them from the Egyptians, and will bring them into the promised land.

Come

Come then, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, to bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt; and I will certainly be with thee, and ye shall serve God upon this mountain.

Now, therefore, go and take thy brother Aaron along with thee, and he shall help thee to speak unto Pharaoh the king of Egypt. And the Lord said to Moses, Go, return into Egypt, for the men are dead which sought thy life. So Moses went as the Lord commanded, and took his wife and sons with him. And Moses met Aaron his brother in the wilderness. And Moses told Aaron all that the Lord had said. And they went together to the children of Israel, and gathered them together, and told them all that God had spoken to Moses, and they performed signs in the sight of the people. And the people believed them: and when they heard that the Lord looked upon their afflictions, they bowed their heads and worshipped.

CH.

CH. 5. And afterward Moses and Aaron went and told Pharaoh, saying, Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness.

And Pharaoh said, Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the Lord, neither will I let Israel go. And he gave commandment to the task-masters to be still more cruel; For, said he, they be idle, and therefore say, let us go and sacrifice to our God. And Moses was fourscore years old, and Aaron fourscore and three years old when they spake unto Pharaoh.

And the Lord said unto Moses, Pharaoh refuseth to let my people go; therefore say thou unto him, For this cause will I turn all the waters of Egypt into blood, and thou shalt know that I am the Lord. And Moses and Aaron did so, as the Lord had commanded them: and he lifted up the rod, and smote the waters in the sight of Pha-

D

raoh

raoh and his people; and the rivers and all the waters were turned to blood; and the waters stank, and the Egyptians could not drink the water. And Pharaoh still refused to hearken unto the command of God.

CH. 8. Then did he smite the land with frogs, so that they covered all the land.

Then Aaron with his rod smote the dust of the earth, and it became lice, so that man and beast were covered with lice. And the Lord said unto Moses, Stand before Pharaoh, and say, Thus saith the Lord, Let my people go, that they may serve me: if thou refuse, I will send swarms of flies upon thee and all thy people; and they shall cover the ground whereon they are, but no flies shall be in the land of Goshen, amongst my people, that they may know I am the Lord, in the midst of the earth. And I will put a division between thy people and my people: to-morrow shall this sign be. And the Lord did so. But still Pharaoh would not let the people go.

CH. 9. Then there was sent a grievous murrain upon all the cattle, and all the cattle of Egypt died; but of the cattle of the children of Israel died not one. But the king would not let the people go.

Then the Lord sent boils and blains upon man and beast throughout all the land of Egypt.

And the Lord said unto Moses, Go, and say unto Pharaoh, thus saith the Lord God of the Hebrews, let my people go, that they may serve me, or I will send all my plagues upon thine house, and upon thy servants, and upon thy people, that thou mayest know that there is none like me in all the earth.

For now I will smite thee and thy people with pestilence, and thou shalt be cut off from the earth. Behold, to-morrow I will cause it to rain a very grievous hail, such as has not been in Egypt, until now. Send, therefore, now, and gather thy servants, cattle, and all that are out in the field, for whatever is found out in the field, by the hail they shall die.

So he that feared the word of the Lord, brought his servants and cattle into the houses, and so preserved them alive: but he that regarded not the word of the Lord, left his servants and cattle in the fields, and they perished. For the Lord sent thunder and hail; and the fire of the lightning ran along upon the ground, which was very grievous, such as had never been before known in Egypt. And the hail smote throughout all the land of Egypt, both man and beast, and every herb, and brake every tree of the field; only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel were, there was no hail at all. And the flax and the barley was smitten, for the flax was bolled, and the barley was in the ear. But the wheat and the rye were not smitten, for they were not grown up. But Pharaoh would not let the people go.

CH. 10. So God sent locusts, and they covered the land, so that the land was darkened with the locusts; and they did eat all the herbs from the ground, and from the trees,

trees, and every green thing that did grow upon all the land of Egypt. And the Lord said unto Moses, Stretch forth thine hand toward heaven: and he did so. And the Lord sent darkness over all the land, a thick darkness which might be felt. And there was this dreadful darkness three days; they saw not one another; but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings. But the king still refused to let them go, and said unto Moses, Get thee from me: take heed to thyself: for in the day thou seest my face thou shalt die. And Moses said, Thou hast spoken well; I will see thy face again no more.

CH. II. And the Lord said unto Moses, Yet will I bring one plague more upon Pharaoh, and then he will let you go; nay, even thrust you out altogether. All the first-born of the land of Egypt shall die; and all the first-born of beasts; and there shall be a great cry throughout the land of Egypt, such as was never heard before; but against any of the children of Israel shall not

a dog move his tongue; against man or beast; that ye may know that the Lord putteth a difference between the Egyptians and Israel.

CH. 12. Now the Lord gave to Moses directions concerning the passover. And Moses ordered the elders of Israel, according to their families, to take a lamb, and kill the passover, and to dip a bunch of hyssop in the blood, and sprinkle all their door-posts; and none of them to go out of their houses till the morning, that the destroyer should not come into their houses to smite any of them. And the children of Israel did as the Lord had commanded Moses and Aaron; so did they.

And it came to pass, that at midnight the Lord smote all the first-born in the land of Egypt; from the first-born of Pharaoh, unto the first-born of the captive in the dungeon; and all the first-born of the cattle: and behold, there was a great cry in Egypt, because there was not a house where there was not one dead. Then Pharaoh repented,
and

and called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, Get you forth from amongst my people, both you and the children of Israel, your flocks and herds, and go, serve the Lord as ye have said. Be gone; and bless me before you go. And the Egyptians were urgent to send them out of the land in haste; for they said, We be all dead men. And the children of Israel did according to the word of Moses, and borrowed from the Egyptians all things they had need of. And the Lord inclined the Egyptians to lend them also jewels of silver and gold, and raiment, and all such things as they required.

Now the sojourning of the children of Israel in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years: and it came to pass, that upon the self-same day they came into the land of Egypt, all the hosts of the Lord went out thence.

CH. 13. And Moses said unto the people, Remember this day, in which ye came out from Egypt, out of the house of bondage;

for, by strength of hand the Lord brought you out from this place.

And it came to pass, when Pharaoh let the people go, that God led them by the way of the wilderness of the red sea: and Moses took the bones of Joseph along with them; and the Lord went before them, and directed their way: by day in a pillar of a cloud, and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light. And the Lord took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.

CH. 14. But Pharaoh repented that he had let the Israelites depart, and pursued them with a mighty host of horsemen and chariots, and overtook them encamped by the sea.

And when the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and saw the Egyptians near, they were sore afraid; and they cried unto the Lord their God. And Moses said unto the people, Stand still; fear not; and see the salvation of the Lord. The Lord will fight
for

for you, and deliver you ; therefore go forward. And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed, and went behind them : and the pillar of the cloud that went before them, stood also behind them, to give them light and make darkness upon the enemy's camp, so that they did not venture to come nearer all that night. And Moses stretched his hand over the sea, and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land. And the children of Israel went into the midst on dry ground ; and the waters were a wall unto them, on their right hand, and on their left. And the Egyptians pursued, and went in after them, but could not overtake them. And when Israel were safe landed on the other side, the waters returned upon Pharaoh's host, and the Egyptians fled against it. And the Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea, and they were all drowned ; Pharaoh, his host, chariots, and horsemen that came into the sea after him ;
there

there remained not so much as one of them. Thus the Lord saved Israel that day out of the hands of the Egyptians. And Israel saw their enemies dead upon the sea shore: and the people feared the Lord, and believed the Lord and his servant Moses.

CH. 14. But they soon forgot their fears, their dangers, and deliverance, and upon every difficulty they met with in the wilderness they murmured against God, and his servants Moses and Aaron. Their way to the Land of Promise lay through a long wilderness; but the Almighty often shewed them his power and goodness by the hands of Moses and Aaron, working miracles to supply all their wants and necessities. He sweetened bitter water at Marah; sent them quails; and bread from heaven, called manna; brought water out of the rock at Rephidim; gave them victory over the Amalekites; and thus conducted them to the mount Sinai; part of that great mountain Horeb, on which mountain Moses formerly attended the flocks of Jethro; but

now

now called Sinai, on account of the bush which was upon it, when the Lord spake to Moses in a flame of fire. Here the Lord appeared in an awful manner to the Israelites, and delivered the ten commandments, as in ch. 20. Also by Moses gave them many laws and ordinances, for them to observe and obey. From thence the people journeyed to mount Hor, where Aaron died. And the children of Israel travelled in the wilderness forty years.

And Moses went up from the plains of Moab unto the mountain of Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, where he took a view of the promised land.

And the Lord said unto him, This is the land which I promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, I will give it to thy seed. I have now caused thee to see it with thine eyes, but thou shalt not go over thither.

But the Lord said unto Moses, I will raise them up a prophet from amongst their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them

all

all that I shall command him. This prophecy concerning our Saviour is in Deuteronomy, ch. 18. ver. 18.

So Moses the servant of the Lord died there, and was buried in a valley in the land of Moab; but no man knoweth of his sepulchre unto this day.

And Moses was an hundred and twenty years old when he died: his eyes were not dim, nor his natural strength abated. And the children of Israel wept for Moses thirty days. Deuteronomy, ch. 34.

The History of JOSHUA.

CHAP. I.

NOW, after the death of Moses, the Lord spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, saying, Arise, go over Jordan, thou and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them. Every place that your foot shall tread upon, that have I given to the children
of

of Israel. As I said unto Moses, and as I was with him, so I will be with thee : I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. Be strong, and of good courage ; for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land which I sware unto their fathers to give them. Be not afraid : the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

And Joshua commanded the officers and people to prepare for passing over Jordan, to take possession of the promised land. And they answered Joshua, All that thou commandest we will do ; only the Lord thy God be with thee, as he was with Moses. And Joshua sent two men to spy out the strength of the land, and the inhabitants thereof, even to Jericho, on the other side of the river Jordan ; who, on their return, gave him an account thereof. Joshua then rose up early in the morning, and led the people to the banks of the river Jordan, and rested the army there three days.

CH. 3. And he commanded the people, saying, When ye see the ark of the covenant

nant of the Lord your God, and the priests and Levites bearing it, then shall ye follow after it. The ark of the covenant was a chest, overlaid with gold: the cover of it was called the mercy seat, or place of God's special presence, and in it the two tables of the laws were placed, which they were required to obey.

Now Jordan overflows its banks all the time of harvest: but as soon as the feet of those that bare the ark touched the brim of the water, the water divided, and the dry ground appeared. And the people all passed over safely, just over-against Jericho; about forty thousand men prepared for war passed over before the Lord unto battle, to the plains of Jericho. In that day the Lord magnified Joshua in the sight of all Israel; and they feared him as they feared Moses, all the days of his life.

CH. 5. And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, he looked, and behold, there stood a man over-against him, with his sword drawn in his hand. And Joshua said, Art thou

thou for us, or for our adversaries? And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the Lord am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and said unto him, What saith my Lord unto his servant? And he said unto him, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot, for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so.

CH. 6. And the Lord said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour. Now Jericho was strictly shut up because of the children of Israel: none dared to go out, and none came in.

Then Joshua called together the priests and the people, and declared to them the directions he had received from the Lord, in what manner they should surround the city of Jericho and take it. And Joshua said unto the people, Pass on, and compass the city; and let him that is armed pass on before the ark of the Lord.

And it came to pass, when Joshua had spoke to the people, that seven priests bearing

ing seven trumpets of rams horns, passed on before the Lord, and blew with the trumpets; and the ark of the covenant of the Lord followed them. And the armed men went before the priests that blew with the trumpets; and the re-re-ward came after the ark, the priests going on, and blowing with the trumpets. And Joshua commanded the people, saying, Let no words proceed out of your mouth, neither make any noise with your voice, until the day I bid you shout. So the ark of the Lord for six days encompassed Jericho, and every night came into the camp, and lodged in the camp.

And it came to pass on the seventh day they rose early, about the dawning of the day, and compassed the city seven times. And it came to pass at the seventh time Joshua said unto the people, Shout; for the Lord hath given you the city. So when the priests blew the trumpets, the people shouted with a great shout. And the walls of Jericho fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city strait forward, and took the city.

And

And they destroyed all that was in the city, both man and beast, with the edge of the sword. So the Lord was with Joshua, and his fame was noised throughout all the country.

CH. 24. And Joshua gathered all the tribes together, after he had led them through the promised land, and they had conquered all their enemies, and taken all their cities, and he had divided the land amongst them, as Lord had appointed; and he put them in mind of all the great things the Lord had done for them, from the birth of Abraham to the present time, and said unto them, Thus saith the Lord: I have given you a land for which you did not labour, and cities which ye built not, in which ye dwell; I of vineyards and oliveyards which ye planted not, do ye eat.

Now, therefore, fear ye the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served in Egypt, and serve ye the Lord.

And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom you will serve; whether the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. And the people answered and said, God forbid that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for the Lord our God, he it is that brought us up, and our fathers, out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, and which did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way wherein we went, and among all the people through whom we passed, and drove out all the people from before us which dwelt in the lands; therefore will we also serve the Lord, for he is our God. And the people said unto Joshua, The Lord our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey. So Joshua let the people depart, every man to his inheritance. And it came to pass after these things, that Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died, being an hundred and ten years old.

And

And they buried him in the border of his inheritance in Timnath-Serah, which is in mount Ephraim, on the north side of the hill of Gaash. And Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and of the elders that had known the works of the Lord, which he had done for Israel. And the bones of Joseph, which were brought up out of Egypt by the children of Israel, buried they in Shechem, in the ground which Jacob bought for an hundred pieces of silver; and it became the inheritance of the children of Joseph.

The History of SAMSON.

Judges, CHAP. 13.

AND the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and the Lord delivered them into the hands of the Philistines forty years.

And there was a certain man of Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah, who had a wife, but no child. And the angel of the Lord appeared unto the woman, and promised them a son, saying, No razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God, and shall deliver Israel out of the hands of the Philistines. And the woman told her husband. And Manoah entreated the Lord, and said, O my Lord, let the man of God which thou didst send come again unto us, and teach us what we shall do unto the child that shall be born. And God hearkened unto the voice of Manoah. And the angel of God came again, and Manoah said unto him, Now let thy words come to pass: how shall we order the child? And the angel of the Lord said, Of all that I said unto the woman let her beware. She may not eat of any unclean thing, nor of any thing that cometh of the vine, neither let her drink wine or any strong drink. So Manoah offered a meat-offering upon a rock unto
the

the Lord; and the angel of the Lord ascended in the flame of the altar up toward heaven: then they knew he was an angel of the Lord: and he appeared no more unto them. But when the proper time was come, the woman bare a son, and called his name Samson: and the child grew, and the Lord blessed him. And the spirit of the Lord was with him, which he discovered at times in the camp of Dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol.

CH. 14. And Samson went down to Timneth, where he saw a woman of the Philistines, so pleasing to him, that he came to his father and mother, desiring they would get her for him to wife. Then went his father and mother along with Samson down to Timnath, to see the woman; and when they came to the vineyards of Timnath, behold, a young lion roared against him: and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him, and he rent him as he would a kid; and he had nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or mother what he had done. And

he went down and talked with the woman; and she pleased Samson well.

And, after a time, he went again to take her to wife: and he turned aside in the way to look at the carcase of the lion which he had before slain; and behold, there was a swarm of bees, and honey in the carcase of the lion. And he took thereof in his hands, and went on eating, and came to his father and mother, and he gave them, and they did eat; but he told not them from whence he took it. Now it was the custom there at a marriage to feast seven days, and thirty companions were brought to feast with them. And Samson said unto them, I will now put forth a riddle unto you: if you can certainly declare it to me within the seven days of the feast, and find it out, then will I give you thirty sheets, and thirty change of garments: but if ye cannot declare it, then shall ye give the same to me. And they said, Put forth thy riddle. And he said unto them, Out of the eater came forth meat; and out of the strong came forth sweetness. And they

they could not in three days expound the riddle. And it came to pass on the seventh day they came unto Samson's wife, desiring she would prevail with Samson to declare the riddle, saying, Lest we burn thee and thy father's house with fire. Have ye invited us hither to take what we have? Is it not so?

And Samson's wife went, and said unto him, Thou lovest me not. Thou hast put forth a riddle unto my people, and hast not told it me. And he said unto her, Behold, I have not told it my father, nor my mother; and shall I tell it thee? But she wept and entreated, till at length he told it to her; and she discovered the riddle to the children of her people.

And the men of the city said unto him on the seventh day, before the sun went down, What is sweeter than honey? and what is stronger than a lion? And he said unto them, If ye had not plowed with my heifer, ye had not found out my riddle.

And the spirit of the Lord came upon him, and he went down to Ashkelon and slew thirty men, and took their spoil; and gave change of garments unto them which expounded the riddle: and his anger was kindled, and he went up to his father's house.

And it came to pass, some time after he went to visit his wife; but her father would not let him see her, saying, He thought he did not love her, so he had given her to his companion to wife. And Samson was angry; and he went and got three hundred foxes, and took fire-brands, and turned the foxes tail to tail, and put a fire-brand between two tails; he then set them on fire, and turned the foxes into the standing corn of the Philistines, and burnt up the corn, with the vineyards and olives.

Then the Philistines said, Who hath done this? They answered, Samson, son-in-law of the Timnite; because he had taken his wife, and given her to his companion. And the Philistines came up, and burnt her and her

her father with fire. And Samson said, Though ye have done this, yet will I be avenged of you, and after that I will cease. So he smote them hip and thigh with a great slaughter, and then went and dwelt in the top of the rock Etam. And the Philistines went up against him: and the men of Judah bound Samson with two new cords, and delivered him into the hands of the Philistines, who ruled over them. And when they saw Samson bound, the Philistines shouted against him. And the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him; and the cords became as flax burnt with fire, and the bands loosed from off his hands. And he found a jaw bone of an ass, took it, and with it slew a thousand men. And Samson said, With the jaw-bone of an ass, heaps upon heaps—with the jaw-bone of an ass have I slain a thousand men. He then cast away the jaw-bone out of his hand, and called that place Ramath-lehi. And Samson was fore athirst, and he prayed unto the Lord, saying, Thou hast given me
a great

a great deliverance, and now shall I die of thirst. And God caused the jaw-bone to produce water; and when he had drunk his spirits came, and he revived; wherefore he called the name thereof En-hakkore. And Samson judged Israel in the days of the Philistines twenty years.

Now when Samson was at Gaza, it was told the Gazites; and they laid wait for him all night, saying, In the morning we shall kill him. But Samson arose at midnight, and took the city gates, and the two posts, and went away with them, bar and all, and put them upon his shoulders, and carried them to the top of an hill that is before Hebron.

Now the Philistines found out that Samson was fond of a woman called Delilah. And the lords of the Philistines came to her, saying, We will give thee every one of us eleven hundred pieces of silver, if thou wilt discover unto us by what means we may prevail against him, that we may bind him to afflict him.

And

And she said unto Samson, Tell me, I pray thee, wherein thy great strength lieth. And he said, If I be bound with seven green withs that were never dried, then shall I be as another man. And she got them and bound him; but he brake the withs as a thread is broken when it toucheth the fire. Again she repeated her request; and he told her, If I be bound with new ropes, which were never before made use of, then shall I be weak as another man. This also proved a deceit. She still pursued the inquiry; and he again disappointed her. She then said unto him, Still thou mockest me. Why wilt thou not tell me where thy great strength lieth? And she daily wearied him with her words, till his soul was vexed unto death.

And he told her all his heart, and said unto her, There hath not come a razor upon my head: if I be shaven my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man.

Now when she had let the Lords of the Philistines know the secret, they brought her the

the money they had promised: and when he was asleep, she brought a man, and caused him to shave off the seven locks of hair from his head; and behold his strength was then gone from him. And the Philistines took him, and put out both his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he was forced to grind in the prison-house. And when the people saw Samson, they said, Our god hath delivered our enemy into our hands, who was the destroyer of our country, and slew so many of us. Howbeit, his hair began to grow again, and his strength increased with it.

Now the lords of the Philistines were all gathered together to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god, for their deliverance from their great enemy Samson; and when their hearts were merry, they said, Call for Samson, that he may make us sport. And Samson was brought from the prison-house, and they placed him between two pillars.

And

And Samson said unto the lad who led him, Place me between the pillars upon which the house standeth, that I may lean upon them. Now the house was full: all the lords of the Philistines were there; and upon the roof about three thousand men and women, that beheld while Samson made sport. And Samson prayed, saying, O Lord God, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, that I may be avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes. He then took hold of the pillars upon which the house stood, one with his right hand and the other with his left, and said, Let me die with the Philistines. And he bowed himself forward with all his might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein; so the number he slew at his death, were more than he slew in his life.

Then his brethren came down, and took him, and brought him up, and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol, in the burying-place of Manoah his father.

The History of SAMUEL, SAUL, and DAVID.

First Book of *Samuel*, CHAP. 3.

AND the Lord was with Samuel the prophet, and did let none of his words fall to the ground. And Israel knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the Lord.

CH. 4. Now the Philistines put themselves in array against Israel, and in battle killed of the Israelites in the field about four thousand men. And the people said, Let us fetch the ark of the covenant of our God from Shiloh, that it may save us out of the hands of our enemies. And they did so.

Now when the ark came into the camp, all Israel shouted with a great shout, that the earth rang again. When the Philistines heard it, they were afraid, for they said, God is come into their camp; woe unto us, for there hath not been such a thing heretofore.

heretofore. Who shall deliver us out of the hand of that God who smote the Egyptians with all the plagues? Be strong, O ye Philistines: quit yourselves like men, and fight.

And the Philistines fought. And Israel was smitten; and they fled to their tents after a great slaughter; for there fell of Israel thirty thousand.

And the ark of God was taken; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were slain.

Now Eli was ninety and eight years old, and trembled for the ark of God. And when he heard it was taken by the Philistines, he fell down backward and died, after judging Israel forty years.

CH. 5. And the Philistines put the ark into the house where their idol god, Dagon, stood. And when they came next day, they found the idol fallen down before the ark, broken in pieces. And the Lord sent a deadly destruction among them; and they sent the ark from one city to another; but
disease

disease and calamities attended wherever it went.

CH. 60 And after the ark had been with them seven months, they called their priests together, to consult how to get rid of the ark, on account of which they supposed the plagues were sent. The priests advised to send away the ark, and a trespass-offering of gold along with it, saying, Ye shall give glory unto the God of Israel, peradventure, he will lighten his hand from off you, and from off your land. Harden not your hearts, as the Egyptians did, when God wrought his wonders among them. Now, therefore, make a new cart, and put to it two milch kine, on which there hath come no yoke, and bring their calves home from them, and lay the ark upon the cart, and the trespass-offering of gold in a coffer by it, and send it away: if the kine of themselves take the way of the coast to beth-shemesh, we shall know it is the hand of God that smote us; if not, it may be a chance that happened unto us.

And

And behold, the kine took the straight road, turning neither to the right nor left, lowing as they went: and the lords of the Philistines followed to the borders of Beth-shemesh. And the men of Beth-shemesh were reaping their wheat harvest, and lifted up their eyes, and saw the ark, and rejoiced to see it; but the men of Beth-shemesh looked into the ark, which was forbidden; and the Lord smote of the people fifty thousand and threescore and ten men. And the people lamented before the Lord; and they said, Who is able to stand before this holy Lord God? and to whom shall he go up from us?

CH. 7. And the men of Kirjath-jearim fetched up the ark of the Lord, and placed it in the house of Abinadab, and sanctified Eliazer his son, to keep the ark of the Lord: and there it remained twenty years. And the children of Israel lamented for the ark of the Lord; and Samuel said unto them, If ye will return unto the Lord with all your hearts, and worship him only, then will the

Lord deliver you out of the hands of the Philistines.

And the people said, Cease not to cry unto the Lord our God for us. And Samuel cried unto the Lord for Israel, and the Lord heard him.

Now when the Philistines heard that the children of Israel were gathered together to Mizpeh, they went up against Israel. And when Samuel was offering up a burnt-offering, the Philistines drew near to battle. But the Lord thundered with a great thunder on that day upon the Philistines, and discomfited them. And Israel pursued them, and smote them, until they came under Beth-car. Then Samuel took a stone, and set it up, and called the name of it Eben-ezer, saying, Hitherto hath the Lord helped us. So the Philistines were subdued, the hand of the Lord being against them; and they came no more into the coast of Israel all the days of Samuel. And Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life: in Ramah was his house; and there he built an altar unto the Lord.

CH. 8. It came to pass when Samuel was old, the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah, and said unto him, Make us a king to judge us, like the neighbouring nations. Now this greatly displeased Samuel: however, he prayed unto the Lord for direction. And the Lord said, Hearken unto the people; for it is not thee, but me they have rejected, that I should not reign over them: but let them know what they are to expect from a king that shall reign over them. So Samuel told the words of the Lord unto the people that asked of him a king. And then Samuel said unto the men of Israel, Goe ye every man into his city.

CH. 9. Now there was a man of Benjamin whose name was Kish, and he had a son whose name was Saul; a choice young man, who was higher than any of the people, from the shoulders and upward. And the asses of Kish, Saul's father, were lost; and Kish sent his son Saul, and a servant, to seek the asses. Now they went through mount Ephraim,

the lands of Shalisha, Shalem, and of the Benjamites, but found them not. And when they came to the land of Zuph, Saul said to his servant, Come, let us return; lest my father leave caring for the asses, and take thought for us. And the servant said, Let us first enquire of the prophet who is in the city: peradventure he will tell us our way. So they went up into the city, and Samuel met them as he was going up to the high place to sacrifice. Now the Lord had made known to Samuel the day before, that he had chosen Saul from amongst the people, to be king over Israel. And when Samuel saw Saul, he knew him to be the man that God had chosen to reign over the people.

And Samuel took Saul and the servant into the parlour, and seated them in the chiefest place, among thirty others who were bidden to the feast. And Samuel said unto the cook, Bring hither the portion I ordered to be set by. And the cook took up the shoulder, and set it before Saul. And Samuel said unto him, Eat; for it has been kept

kept for thee. So Saul did eat with Samuel that day, and went down with him, and they communed together. Early in the morning Samuel called Saul, and they went out together. And Samuel said, Send the servant on before : and he passed on : But stand thou still awhile, that I may shew thee the words of the Lord.

CH. 10. And Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it upon his head, and said, The Lord hath anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance. And he prophesied many things that should come to pass, which were all fulfilled.

And when Saul had turned his back to go from Samuel, God gave him another heart; and he found the spirit of the Lord was with him, and he did prophesy amongst the prophets. Then the people said, What is this that is come to the son of Kish ! Is Saul also among the prophets ? And Samuel called the people together before the Lord to Mizpeh, and presented Saul unto them, who was appointed by God to be their king,

saying, There is none like unto him among the people, for he was taller than any of the people, from the shoulders and upward. And all the people shouted, and said, God save the king. Then Samuel told the people the manner of the kingdom, and wrote it in a book, and laid it up before the Lord, and then sent away the people, every man to his house. And Saul also went home to Gibeah; and there went with him a band of men, whom the Lord had inclined to follow him.

CH. 11. Now it came to pass, the king of the Ammonites threatened Israel with war: and the spirit of God came upon Saul, and he gathered together the people of Israel, three hundred thousand, and of the men of Judah thirty thousand: with these Saul slew of the Ammonites till the heat of the day, dispersing the rest so, that two were not found together. Then Samuel said to the people, Let us go to Gilgal, and renew the kingdom there. And they did so, and there made Saul king before the Lord, and rejoiced greatly.

CH. 12. And Samuel spoke unto the people, and said, It is the Lord that brought you up out of the land of Egypt, with signs and wonders; that fought your battles, and delivered you from all your enemies; and still you have been ungrateful, by asking a king to reign over you, though the Lord of hosts was your king.

And all the people said unto Samuel, Pray for thy servants unto the Lord thy God, for we acknowledge our sin in asking us a king. And Samuel said, Fear not: if you turn not aside from following the Lord, but serve him with all your hearts, the Lord will not forsake you for his great name's sake: only fear the Lord, and serve him in truth, for consider how great things he hath done for you. As for me, I will not cease to pray unto the Lord for you, but will teach you the good and right way: but if ye do wickedly, ye shall be consumed, both you and your king.

CH. 13. And after Saul had reigned two years, Jonathan his son smote the garrison of the Philistines. And they gathered them-

selves together to fight Israel, thirty thousand chariots, six thousand horsemen, and people as the sand for multitude, and came up, and pitched in Michmash, eastward from Beth-aven. As for Saul, he was yet at Gilgal; and the people followed him trembling.

CH. 14. And there were with Saul about six thousand men. And Jonathan and his armour-bearer, unknown to Saul, went unto the garrison of the Philistines; for Jonathan said, It may be the Lord will work for us; for there is no restraint to the Lord, to save by many or by few. So these two discovered themselves to the garrison. And the Philistines said, Behold the Hebrews! And they called to Jonathan and his armour-bearer, saying, Come up hither, and we shall shew you something. So Jonathan and his armour-bearer climbed up on their hands and feet, between two sharp rocks, and immediately fell upon the garrison, and slew about twenty men, within the compass of half an acre of land. And all the garrison were amazed, and trembled; and the earth quaked,

ed, and there was great fear and trembling amongst them, insomuch that they went on beating down one another.

And Saul's watchmen in Gibeah plainly saw the vast multitudes of their enemies melting away. And Saul said, See who it is that is gone from us. And they found Jonathan and his armour-bearer were not there. So then Saul and the people followed to the battle. And the Philistines fled, and they followed hard after them in the battle. So the Lord saved Israel that day, and they pursued the enemy over unto Beth-ayen. Then the Philistines returned unto their own place. And Saul took the government over Israel, and fought and subdued their enemies on every side, success attending him wherever he went. And whenever Saul saw a valiant strong man, he took him to himself.

CH. 15. And Samuel told Saul, The Lord saith, Go and fight with Amalek, who laid wait for Israel when they came up out of Egypt, and destroy him and all his people,

ple, and all his cattle, till they be consumed. But Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best of the cattle. Then came the word of the Lord unto Samuel, saying, It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king, for he doth not perform my commandments.

And Samuel told Saul that the Lord was angry with him for not obeying his commands. Saul answered and said, The people took of the best of the sheep and oxen to sacrifice unto the Lord. And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in sacrifices, as in obedience to his voice? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken, than the fat of rams. Now, because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king. Then Samuel went to Ramah, and Saul to Gibeah. And Samuel came no more to see Saul until the day of his death.

CH. 16. And the Lord said unto Samuel, Fill thine horn with oil, and go to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided a king among

among his sons. And Samuel came to Bethlehem: and the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, Comest thou peaceably? And he said, Peaceably, to sacrifice unto the Lord. Sanctify yourselves, and come up with me. And he sanctified Jesse and his sons, and called them to the sacrifice. And Jesse's sons all passed before Samuel: David was the last, being the youngest; and his countenance was beautiful. And the Lord said, Arise, anoint him, for this is he. Then he took the oil and anointed him before them all; and the spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went home to Ramah.

CH. 17. Now it came to pass that the Philistines again gathered themselves to battle; and Saul and the men of Israel also. They first pitched near Shochoh; the other army by the valley of Elah. The Philistines stood on a mountain on the one side; and Israel on a mountain on the other side; and the valley lay between. And there went out a champion from the camp of the Philistines, named

named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span; and he had an helmet of brass upon his head, and was armed with a coat of mail, which weighed five thousand shekels of brass: and he had greaves of brass upon his legs, and a target of brass between his shoulders: the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and the head of his spear weighed six hundred shekels of iron; and one bearing a shield went before him. Now Goliath came forward, and challenged the army of Saul, saying, I defy the armies of Israel this day. Give me a man, that we may fight together. If he kill me, we will be your servants; but if I kill him, then shall ye serve us. And this Philistine drew near morning and evening, and presented himself forty days.

Now Jesse sent his son David to Saul's army, to enquire after his brethren, who were there, to carry provision to them, and a present to their commander: and he just came to them when the host were going out to fight, and shouted for the battle. Now

Goliath

Goliath came forward and repeated his challenge; and David heard it. And the people of Israel were fore afraid. And David spake to them that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach of Israel; and who defieth the armies of the living God? And they answered him, The king will enrich him with great riches; will give him his daughter, and make his father's house free in Israel.

Now when Saul was told what David had said, he sent for him. And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him. Thy servant will go against this Philistine, and fight with him; for thy servant hath slain both a lion and a bear; and this giant shall be as one of them. Because he has defied the armies of the living God, the Lord, that delivered me from the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go; and the Lord be with thee.

And

And David took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag, and his sling was in his hand; and he drew near to the Philistine; who, when he saw David, disdained him. And he said, Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves? And he cursed David, and said, If thou wilt come to me, I will give thy flesh to the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field. Then said David, Thou comest to me with a sword, a spear, and a shield; but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of Hosts; the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. This day the Lord will deliver thee into mine hand, and I will smite off thine head, and I will give the carcases of the Philistines to the fowls of the air, and the wild beasts of the field, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel; for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hands.

Then David took a stone out of his bag, and slung it, and it smote Goliath in his forehead,

forehead, and he fell on his face upon the earth. Then David ran, got upon him, took his sword, and smote off his head. And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled. And the men of Israel and Judah shouted, and pursued the Philistines unto the gates of Ekron, and then returned and spoiled their tents. So David brought the head of Goliath along with him to Jerusalem. And Abner, the captain of the host, brought David before Saul, with the head of the giant in his hand. And Saul said, Whose son art thou, young man? David answered, The son of thy servant Jesse the Bethlehemitite.

CH. 18. And it came to pass when he had done speaking to Saul, he would not suffer David to go any more to his father's house. Now Jonathan loved David as his own soul; and they entered into a covenant of friendship together. And Jonathan pulled off his robe, and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword, his bow, and his girdle. And David went wherever Saul sent

sent him, and behaved himself wisely, and rendered himself agreeable to all the people, and to the king's servants. And Saul was afraid of him, and removed him from before him, making him captain over a thousand. And David behaved himself wisely in all his ways, and the Lord was with him; and all Israel and Judah loved David. And Saul gave him Michal his daughter to wife: and Saul saw his daughter loved David, and was the more afraid of him: and Saul became David's enemy continually: but still David behaved himself more wisely than all the servants of Saul, so that his name was much set by.

CH. 19. And Saul spake unto Jonathan, and to all his servants, that they should kill David. But Jonathan delighted in David, and told him of his danger, advising him to take heed, and hide himself, and promised to let him know what should pass concerning him. And Jonathan spake good of him to Saul his father, saying, Did he not slay the Philistine, and wrought a great salvation for

for all Israel? Thou sawedst it, and rejoiced greatly: wherefore wilt thou sin against innocent blood, to slay David without a cause? And Saul hearkened unto the voice of Jonathan, and said, As the Lord liveth, David shall not be slain.

Afterward David went to fight the Philistines, and he slew them with a great slaughter. And Saul envied David the glory of this victory, and resolved upon his destruction: but David fled and hid himself, and his wife Michal assisted him in his escape.

Now it came to pass on the day of the new moon, when the king sat at meat, behold, the place of David was empty. And Saul said unto Jonathan, Wherefore cometh not the son of Jesse to meat? Jonathan replied, I gave him leave to go to meet his family at Bethlehem, to sacrifice. Then Saul's anger was kindled against Jonathan, saying, I know thou hast chosen the son of Jesse for thy own destruction, for while he liveth thou wilt never be king; therefore send for him, for

he shall surely die. And Jonathan went and met David in the fields, and let him know of the anger of the king, and of his designs against his life: so they took leave one of another, and wept one with another, till David exceeded. And Jonathan said to David, Go in peace, and the Lord be between me and thee, between thy seed and my seed for ever. And he arose and departed, and Jonathan went into the city.

CH. 23. And David's brethren, and family and friends followed him, about six hundred men; and he fought the Philistines, and smote them with a great slaughter, and took away their cattle, and delivered the inhabitants of Keilah. And when David found Saul still threatened his life, he went and abode in the wilderness of Ziph, in a wood. And when Jonathan knew it, he went unto David, and said unto him, Fear not, for my father shall not find thee; and thou shalt be king over Israel, and I shall be next unto thee: and they made a covenant before the Lord. Then Jonathan departed and went
to

to his own house, but David abode in the wood.

Now Saul pursued him from place to place, and David made haste to get away, for he feared Saul: but a messenger came unto Saul, saying, Haste thee, for the Philistines have invaded the land. So Saul left off the pursuit of David to fight the Philistines; and David dwelt in strong holds at En-gedi.

CH. 24. Now it came to pass when Saul returned from following the Philistines, he took with him three thousand chosen men, and went in pursuit of David: and when he came to the sheep-cotes, by the way there was a cave into which Saul went, but David and his men remained on the sides of the cave. Then David arose, and cut off the skirt of Saul's robe privily, but would not suffer his men to stretch forth their hand against him. Now Saul rose up out of the cave, and went on his way, not knowing David was also in the cave. When he was gone, David also arose and followed, and

called after Saul, My lord the king! When Saul looked behind him, David bowed himself, and said, See, my father; yea, see the skirt of thy robe in my hand, yet I killed thee not. Know, therefore, there is no sin or transgression in my hand, yet thou huntest my soul to take it. As saith the proverb of the ancients, wickedness proceedeth from the wicked; but mine hand shall not be upon thee. The Lord therefore judge between us, and deliver me out of thine hand. And Saul said unto David, Thou art more righteous than I: for thou hast rendered me good for evil: therefore the Lord reward thee good, inasmuch as thou killedst me not this day. Behold, I well know that thou shalt surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in thine hand: swear now unto me, thou wilt not destroy my name out of my father's house, by cutting off my seed after me. And David sware unto Saul. Then Saul went home, but David and his men gat them up into the hold.

CH. 26/ Now afterward Saul was told, that David had hidden himself in the wilderness of Ziph: and he arose and took with him three thousand chosen men to seek him, and pitched on a hill not far off. And David arose, and came to the place where Saul had pitched; and David beheld the king sleeping within the trench, and his spear stuck in the ground at his bolster, and Abner and the people lying round about him. And David went and took away the spear, and a cruse of water that was at Saul's bolster: and no man saw it, or knew it, neither awakened; for they were all asleep; because a dead sleep from the Lord was fallen upon them.

And David went to the top of an hill, and called out to the people and to Abner, saying, Why have not ye kept your lord the king? As the Lord liveth ye are worthy to die. See where the king's spear is, and the cruse of water that was at his bolster! And Saul knew David's voice, and said, Is this thy voice, my son David? And he re-

plied, It is, my lord, O king. Why doest thou thus pursue me? What have I done? Then said Saul, Return, my son; for I will no more do thee harm, because my life was this day preserved by thee.

And David said, Behold the king's spear! let one of the young men come and fetch it. The Lord render to every man according to his faithfulness. Then Saul said, Blessed be thou, my son David: thou shalt do great things, and shalt still prevail. So David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place.

CH. 31. Now the Philistines fought against Israel, and prevailed against them. And Jonathan and Saul's sons were slain, and Saul was wounded, and he took his sword and fell upon it. So Saul died, and his three sons; and then the men of Israel fled and forsook their cities, and the Philistines came and dwelt in them.

2 SAM. CH. 1. v. 17. And when David heard that Saul and his beloved Jonathan were dead, he lamented with great lamentation

tation over Saul, and over Jonathan his son, saying, The beauty of Israel is slain upon the high places. Tell it not in Gath; publish it not in the streets of Askelon; lest the Philistines rejoice and triumph.

The bow of Jonathan turned not back, and the sword of Saul returned not empty. Saul and Jonathan were lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided. How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle! and the weapons of war perished!

CH. 2. And David went up unto Hebron with all his men, and the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over Judah.

CH. 5. ver. 3. So all the elders of Israel came to the king to Hebron; and he made a league with them before the Lord, and they also anointed him king over Israel. And David was thirty years old when he began to reign. In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months: and in

Jerusalem he reigned thirty and three years over all Israel and Judah.

And David went on, and grew great; and the Lord God of Hosts was with him.

CH. 7. And it came to pass when David was at peace and rest round about from all his enemies, it came into his mind to build a temple unto the Lord. But the Lord sent Nathan the prophet to say unto David, Shalt thou build me an house for me to dwell in? Thus saith the Lord, When thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, and will establish his kingdom. He shall build me an house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom; and thy throne and thy house shall be established for ever. Thus did Nathan speak unto David. Then said David, Who am I, O Lord God! and what is my house? Thou art great, O Lord God! there is none like unto thee; neither is there any God beside thee; and with thy blessing let the house of thy servant be blessed for ever.

CH. 8.

CH. 8. And after this it came to pass, that David smote the Philistines; and subdued them; also Moab the king of Zobah, and the Syrians, of whom he slew two and twenty thousand men; and he took of their spoils in gold and silver and brass, and dedicated them unto the Lord. And the Lord preserved David whithersoever he went.

CH. 21. And behold there was a famine in the days of David three years. And seven of Saul's sons were hanged on account of Saul's bloody house: but the king spared Mephibosheth the son of his beloved friend Jonathan, the son of Saul, because of the oath that was between David and Jonathan. And David brought up the bones of Saul and Jonathan, and buried them in the sepulchre of Kish, the father of Saul. And afterward God was entreated for the land. Moreover the Philistines had yet war against Israel, and brought down giants of the family of Goliath in Gath; but David and his servants slew them.

CH. 22. David's thanksgiving to God for all his merciful deliverances. This song of praise is repeated in his 18th psalm.

1 Chronicles, ch. 28. And David assembled together at Jerusalem all the princes of the tribes, his sons, and captains, with all the valiant and mighty men; and he stood up and said, Hear me, my brethren and my people: I had it in my heart to build an house for God, and had made ready for it; and he liked me to make me king over Israel.

And the Lord said unto me, Solomon thy son, he shall build my house. I have chosen him to be my son, and I will be his father; and I will establish his kingdom for ever, if he keep my commandments, as at this day.

And thou, Solomon, my son, know thou the God of thy fathers, and serve him with a perfect heart, and with a willing mind. If thou seek him he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever. Take heed now, for the Lord hath chosen

chosen thee to build an house for the sanctuary. Be strong and do it.

Then David gave to Solomon all the stores and provisions he had made before-hand, with the plans and patterns. All this, said David, the Lord made me to understand in writing, by his hand upon me. Then be of good courage; fear not; for God, even my God, will be with thee: he will not forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the Lord.

CH. 29. And all the congregation blessed the Lord God of their fathers, and bowed down their heads, and worshipped the Lord and the king. And they made Solomon the son of David king the second time.

Then Solomon sat on the throne as king instead of David his father, and prospered, and all Israel obeyed him.

Thus David the son of Jesse reigned over all Israel forty years: and he died in a good old age, full of days, riches and honor: and Solomon his son reigned in his stead.

The

The Psalms of David contain the most grand, extensive, and universal plan of devotion. They comprehend all the parts of prayer; as adoration, confession, petition, thanksgiving, and intercession, and afford a vast variety of entertainment and improvement to the pious mind, from his prophecies, histories, remarkable deliverances, and by the wonderful interpositions of Providence. In them we are taught, how to address the Almighty for public and private blessings, and with what fervor and delight we ought to return our thanks to the Author of all good.

The History of SOLOMON.

Second Book of *Chronicles*, CHAP. I.

AND Solomon, the son of David, was strengthened in his kingdom, and the Lord his God was with him.

And

And Solomon and the congregation went up to Gibeon, with solemn offerings unto the Lord.

In that night did God appear unto Solomon, and said unto him, Ask what I shall give thee? And Solomon said, O Lord God, give me now wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people; for who can judge this thy people that is so great?

And God said, Because thou hast not asked riches nor honor, nor the life of thine enemies, neither long-life for thyself, but hast asked wisdom and knowledge, that thou mayest judge my people, over whom I have made thee king; wisdom and knowledge is granted unto thee, and I will give thee also riches, wealth, and honor, such as no king before thee have had, neither shall any after thee have the like.

Then Solomon came from his journey to Gibeon, from before the tabernacle of the congregation, to Jerusalem, and reigned over Israel. And he had a thousand and four hundred

hundred chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen, which he placed in the cities, and at Jerusalem. And he made silver and gold as plenteous as stones, and cedar-trees as the sycamore in the vale.

CH. 3. And Solomon began to build the house of the Lord at Jerusalem, on the second day of the second month, in the fourth year of his reign.

1 Kings, ch. 6. ver. 37. In the fourth year was the foundation of the house of the Lord laid, in the month Zif, and in the eleventh year, in the month Bul (which is the eighth month) was the house finished, throughout all the parts thereof, and according to all the fashion of it; so he was seven years in building of it.

2 Chron. ch. 5. Then did Solomon bring in all the things that David his father dedicated to the temple, with the silver, the gold, and the instruments; all which he put among the treasures of the house of God.

Then did all the men of Israel assemble themselves unto the king in the feast, which

was

was in the seventh month. And they all stood near the altar, praising the Lord, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever. Then was the house filled with a cloud, even the house of the Lord; and the glory of the Lord filled the house.

CH. 6. And the king turned his face, and blessed the whole congregation of Israel as they stood. (Solomon had prepared a brazen scaffold of five cubits long, and five cubits broad, and three cubits high, and had set it in the midst of the court: upon this he stood.) Then kneeling down before the people of Israel, he spread forth his hands toward heaven, and said, O Lord God of Israel, there is no God like thee in heaven, or on the earth, which keepest covenant, and shewest mercy unto thy servants, that walk before thee with all their hearts.

(But will God in very deed dwell with men on the earth? Behold the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee! how much less this house which I have built!)

Have

Have respect, therefore, to the supplications and prayers of thy servant, and of thy people Israel, which we shall make toward this place. And now, my God, I beseech thee, let thine eyes be open, and let thine ears be attentive unto the prayer that is made in this place. Hear from heaven, thy dwelling-place, the prayers and supplications of thy people, and maintain their cause, and forgive thy people which have sinned against thee. Arise, O Lord God, be clothed with salvation, and let thy saints rejoice in thy goodness.

CH. 7. Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the glory of the Lord filled the house, and the people bowed themselves on the pavement, and worshipped, saying, Praised be the name of the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endureth for ever. Then the king and all the people offered sacrifice before the Lord, and thus dedicated the house of God. Then sent he away the people into their tents, rejoicing for the goodness of the Lord which he had shewn to David,

David, and to Solomon, and to Israel his people. Thus, all that came into Solomon's heart, to build and to make in the house of the Lord, and his own house, he prosperously effected. And the Lord appeared to Solomon by night, and said unto him, I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself, for an house of sacrifice. Mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attentive to the prayers that are made in this place: mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually, while you walk in my statutes, and keep my commands. But if you turn away and forsake my commands, which I set before you, and go to serve other gods, then will I pluck you up by the roots out of the lands which I have given you, and will cast you out of my sight, and will make you a proverb and a by-word among all the nations.

And king Solomon surpassed all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom; and he reigned over all the kings from the river even unto the land of the Philistines, and to

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the

the border of Egypt. And Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel forty years. And Solomon slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David.

Solomon wrote the book of Proverbs, consisting of detached sentences; rules for our conduct through life: easy to be understood, being adapted to a weak capacity. He also gives lessons of prudence and advice, particularly to youth; and from his own experience, recommends to their peculiar attention the advice of parents. He recommends industry, self-government, humility, prudence, caution, and wisdom; the study and practice of which he enforces with the blessings which attend it—Length of days are in her right hand, and in her left hand riches and honor.

The History of Job.

CHAP. I.

THERE was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job. He was an upright man,

man, and one that feared God. He had seven sons and three daughters; seven thousand sheep; three thousand camels; five hundred yoke of oxen; five hundred she asses, and a very numerous household; and was the greatest of all the men of the east. He was not only honored for his riches, but also greatly esteemed for his piety and justice; his wisdom and knowledge; his patience (even to a proverb) his benevolence, compassion, and charity; and he feared, worshipped, and served God with all his heart. In his prosperity he was humble: in adversity, resigned. But this patient, pious man, met with great and grievous afflictions.

There was a day when his sons and daughters were met together in their eldest brother's house. And there came a messenger unto Job, who said, The oxen were plowing, and the asses feeding beside them, and the Sabeans fell upon them, and took them away; yea, they have slain their keepers; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

Another messenger came to him, saying,

H 2

A fire

A fire from heaven has fallen upon thy sheep and their keepers, which hath consumed them all; and I only escaped to tell thee.

Another brought him word, saying, The Chaldeans have carried away thy camels, and slain their attendants, and I only am escaped to tell thee.

While he was yet speaking, there came also another, who said, Thy sons and daughters were all met together in their eldest brother's house, and by a great wind from the wilderness the house was blown down, which fell upon them, and they are all dead, and I only am escaped to tell thee.

Then Job arose and rent his mantle, and fell down upon the ground and worshipped, saying, Naked I came into this world, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; and blessed be the name of the Lord.

CH. 2. After all these dreadful disappointments, it pleased God to permit a sore disease to cover his body all over with boils and blotches, from the sole of his foot unto his

his crown, so that he took a potsherd to scrape himself withal, and sat down among the ashes.

Now when Job's friends heard of all these calamities falling upon him, they agreed together to come to him and comfort him. And when they came and saw him in that dismal condition, they wept, and sat down by him on the ground, but could not speak, for they saw his grief was great. And after this Job bemoaned himself, and in the bitterness of his spirit wished he had never been born. Now his friends, instead of pouring balm into his wounds, added to his sorrows, by charging him with a want of religion; supposing that God would not have suffered him to be thus grievously afflicted, unless he had been greatly guilty.

CH. 5. But Job vindicates himself to his friends, and reasons the case strongly with them, saying, To him that is afflicted, pity should be shewn from friends; but now you see my casting down you blame me. Instead of comforting, you dig a pit for your friend. Cause me to understand wherein I have erred.

Look

Look upon me: is there iniquity in my tongue? Be content; for it is evident unto you if I lie.

CH. 13. What ye know, the same do I know also. I am not inferior to you. Ye are all physicians of no value. O that you would altogether hold your peace, and it should be your wisdom. Do you think to mock God? He will surely reprove you, if you secretly accept persons.

CH. 16. Miserable comforters are ye all. I could speak as you do, if your souls were in my soul's stead. I could heap up words against you, and shake mine head at you: but I would strengthen and comfort you, and with my lips would I endeavour to assuage your grief. But my friends scorn me, though mine eyes pour out tears unto God, and in a little time I shall go the way whence I shall not return.

Still Job's friends, instead of alleviating his sorrows, go on to add to his distress by false and cruel accusations.

CH. 27. Job appeals to God for his vindication;

dication; acknowledges his power, his providence, and his goodness; and tells his friends, whilst the spirit of God is in his nostrils, his lips shall not speak wickedness, nor his tongue utter deceit: but, says he, God forbid that I should justify you: till I die I will not remove my integrity from me. My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go. My heart shall not reproach me so long as I live.

In ch. 29, Job takes a view of the happy circumstances he had formerly been in; and in ch. 30, of his present calamities; but his friends still find fault with him.

In ch. 40, God is represented as arguing the case with Job, and Job as replying with humble submission.

In ch. 42, Job answers the Lord saying, I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be hid from thee. I have uttered things too wonderful for me, wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.

And the Lord said unto Job's friends, My wrath is kindled against you, for ye have
not

not spoken of me the thing that is right, as my servant Job hath. Therefore offer for yourselves a burnt-offering, and let my servant Job pray for you, for him I will accept. So they did as the Lord commanded them: the Lord also accepted Job. And when Job prayed for his friends, the Lord turned away his captivity, and gave him twice as much as he had before. Then did all Job's relations come and visit him, and bemoaned him, and comforted him, and brought him presents of money, and ear-rings of gold. So the Lord blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning; for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses; he had also seven sons and three daughters. After this Job lived an hundred and forty years, and saw his sons, and his sons sons, even four generations. So Job died, being old and full of days.

THE END.